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HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

(*Continued from page* 116.)

The first Sabbath after our arrival in Jackson County, brother W. W. Phelps preached to a western audience, over the boundary of the United States, wherein were present specimens of all the families of the earth, for there were several families of the Indians, quite a respectable number of negroes, and the balance was made up of citizens of the surrounding counties, and fully represented themselves as pioneers of the west. At this meeting two were baptized who had previously believed in the fulness of the gospel. During this week the Colesville branch referred to in the latter part of the last revelation, and Sidney Rigdon and wife, and elders Morley and Booth arrived, and I also received the following:—

Revelation given in Zion, August, 1831.

Hearken, O ye elders of my church, and give ear to my word, and learn of me what I will concerning you, and also concerning this land unto which I have sent you: for verily I say unto you: blessed is he that keepeth my commandments, whether in life or in death; and he that is faithful in tribulation the reward of the same is greater in the kingdom of heaven.

Ye cannot behold with your natural eyes, for the present time, the design of your God concerning those things which shall come hereafter, and the glory which shall follow after much tribulation. For after much tribulation cometh the blessing, wherefore the day cometh that ye shall be crowned with much glory, the hour is not yet, but is nigh at hand.

Remember this which I tell you before, that you may lay it to heart, and receive that which shall follow. Behold, verily I say unto you, for this cause I have sent you that you might be obedient, and that your hearts might be prepared to bear testimony of the things which are to come; and also that you might be honoured of laying the foundation, and of bearing record of the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand; and also that a feast of fat things might be prepared for the poor; yea, a feast of fat things—of wine on the lees well refined, that the earth may know that the mouths of the prophets shall not fail; yea, a supper of the house of the Lord, well prepared unto which all nations shall be invited. Firstly, the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble; and after that cometh the day of my power: then shall the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf, come in unto the marriage of the Lamb, and partake of the supper of the Lord, prepared for the great day to come. Behold, I the Lord have spoken it.

And that the testimony might go forth from Zion; yea, from the mouth of the city of the heritage of God: yea, for this cause I have sent you hither; and have selected my servant, Edward Partridge, and have appointed unto him his mission in this land; but if he repent not of his sins, which are unbelief and blindness of heart, let him take heed lest he fall. Behold, his mission is

given unto him and it shall not be given again. And whoso standeth in this mission, is appointed to by a judge in Israel, like as it was in ancient days, to divide the lands of the heritage of God unto his children; and to judge his people by the testimony of the just, and by the assistance of his counsellors, according to the laws of the kingdom which are given by the prophets of God: for verily I say unto you, my laws shall be kept on this land.

Let no man think that he is ruler but let God rule him that judgeth, according to the council of his own will: or, in other words, him that counselleth, or sitteth upon the judgment seat. Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land; wherefore be subject unto the powers that be, until He reigns whose right it is to reign, and subdues all enemies under his feet. Behold the laws which ye have received from my hand, are the laws of the church, and in this light ye shall hold them forth. Behold, here is wisdom.

And now as I spake concerning my servant Edward Partridge, this land is the land of his residence, and those whom he has appointed for his counsellors; and also the land of the residence of him whom I have appointed to keep my storehouse, wherefore let them bring their families to this land, as they shall counsel between themselves and me; for behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant, wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily, I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness, for power is in them wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward; but he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned. Who am I that made man, saith the Lord, that will hold him guiltless that obeys not my commandments? Who am I, saith the Lord, that have promised and have not fulfilled? I command and a man obeys not—I revoke and they receive not the blessing; then they say in their hearts, this is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. But wo unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above.

And now I give unto you further directions concerning this land. It is wisdom in me that my servant, Martin Harris, should be an example unto the church in laying his monies before the bishop of the church; and also this is a law unto every man that cometh unto this land to receive an inheritance, and he shall do with his monies according as the law directs. And it is wisdom also that there should be lands purchased in Independence, for the place of a storehouse, and also for the house of the printing,

And other directions, concerning my servant Martin Harris, shall be given him of the spirit, that he may receive his inheritance as seemeth him good. And let him repent of his sins, for he seeketh the praise of the world.

And also let my servant William W. Phelps stand in the office which I have appointed him, and receeive his inheritance in the land. And also he hath need to repent, for I, the Lord am not well pleased with him, for he seeketh to excel, and he is not sufficiently meek before me. Behold he who has repented of his sins the same is forgiven, and I the Lord remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins. Behold he will confess them and forsake them. And now verily I say, concerning the residue of the elders of my church, the time has not yet come for many years, for them to receive their inheritance in this land; except they desire it through the prayer of faith, only as it shall be appointed unto them of the Lord. For behold they shall push the people together from the ends of the earth: wherefore assemble yourselves together, and they who are not appointed to stay in this land, let them preach the gospel in the regions round about; and after that, let them return to their homes. Let them preach by the way, and bear testimony of the truth in all places, and call upon the rich, the high, and the low, and the poor, to repent; and let them build up churches inasmuch as the inhabitants of the earth will repent.

And let there be an agent appointed by the voice of the church, unto the church in Ohio, to receive monies to purchase lands in Zion.

And I give unto my servant Sidney Rigdon, a commandment, that he shall write a description of the land of Zion, and a statement of the will of God, as it shall be made known by the spirit unto him; and an epistle and subscription, to be presented unto all the churches, to obtain monies, to be put into the hands of the bishop, to purchase lands for an inheritance for the children of God, of himself or the agent, as seemeth him good, or as he shall direct. For behold, verily I say unto you, the Lord willeth that the disciples, and the children of men, should open their hearts even to purchase this whole region of country, as soon as time will permit. Behold here is wisdom; let them do this lest they receive none inheritance, save it be by the shedding of blood.

And again, inasmuch as there is land obtained, let there be workmen sent forth, of all kinds, unto this land, to labour for the saints of God. Let all these things be done in order.—And let the privileges of the lands be made known from time to time, by the bishop, or the agent of the church. And let the work of the gathering be not in haste, nor by flight, but let it be done as it shall be counselled by the elders of the church at the conferences, according to the knowledge which they receive from time to time.

And let my servant Sidney Rigdon consecrate and dedicate this land, and the spot of the temple, unto the Lord. And let a conference meeting be called, and after that, let my servant Sidney Rigdon and Joseph Smith, jun. return and also Oliver Cowdery with them, to accomplish the residue of the work, which I have appointed unto them in their own land: and the residue as shall be ruled by the conferences.

And let no man return from this land, except he bear record by the way, of that which he knows and most assuredly believes. Let that which has been bestowed upon Ziba Peterson be taken from him: and let him stand as a member in the church, and labour with his own hands, with the brethren, until he is sufficiently chastened for all his sins, for he confesseth them not, and he thinketh to hide them.

Let the residue of the elders of this church, who are coming to this land, some of whom are exceedingly blessed even above measure, also hold a conference upon this land. And let my servant Edward Partridge direct the conference, which shall be held by them. And let them also return, preaching the gospel by the way, bearing record of the things which are revealed unto them; for verily the sound must go forth from this place unto all the world: and unto the uttermost parts of the earth, the gospel must be preached unto every creature, with signs following them that believe. And behold the Son of Man cometh: Amen.

On the second day of August, I assisted the Colesville branch of the church to lay the first log, for a house, as a foundation for Zion in Kaw township, twelve miles west of Independence. The log was carried and placed by twelve men, in honour of the twelve tribes of Israel. At the same time, through prayer, the land of Zion was consecrated and dedicated for the gathering of the Saints, by elder Rigdon; and it was a season of joy to those present, and afforded a glimpse of the future, which time will yet unfold to the satisfaction of the faithful. As we had received a commandment for elder Rigdon to write a description of the land of Zion, we sought for all the information necessary to accomplish so desirable an object. Unlike the timbered states in the east, except upon the rivers and water courses; which were verdantly dotted with trees from one to three miles wide, as far as the eye can glance. The beautiful rolling prairies lay spread around like a sea of meadows. The timber is a mixture of oak, hickory, black walnut, elm, cherry, honey locus, mulberry, coffee bean, hackburry, box elder, and bass wood, together with the addition of cotton wood, button wood, pecon, soft and hard maple, upon the bottoms. The shrubbery was beautiful; and consisted in part of plums, grapes, crab apples, and parsimmons. The prairies were decorated with a growth of flowers that seemed as gorgeous and grand as the brilliancy of stars in the heavens, and exceed description. The soil is rich and fertile; from three to ten

feet deep, and generally composed of a rich black mould, intermingled with clay and sand. It produces in abundance, wheat, corn, and many other commodities, together with sweet potatoes and cotton. Horses, cattle, and hogs, though of an inferior breed, are tolerably plentiful, and seem nearly to raise themselves by grazing in the vast prairie range in summer, and feeding upon the bottoms in winter. The wild game is less plentiful where man has commenced the cultivation of the soil, than it is a little farther in the wild prairies. Buffaloe, elk, deer, bear, wolves, beaver, and many less animals roam at pleasure. Turkeys, geese, swans, ducks, yea, a variety of the feathered race are among the rich abundance that graces the delightful regions of this goodly land of the heritage of the children of God. Nothing is more fruitful, or a richer stockholder in the blooming prairies, than the honey bee; honey is but about twenty-five cents per gallon.

The season is mild and delightful nearly three quarters of the year, and as the land of Zion, situated at about equal distances from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, as well as from the Alleghany and Rocky mountains, in the thirty-ninth degree of north latitude, and between the tenth and seventeenth degrees of west longitude. It bids fair to become one of the most blessed places on the globe, when the curse is taken from the land, if not before. The winters are milder than in the Atlantic states of the same parallel of latitude; and the weather is more agreeable, so that were the virtues of the inhabitants only equal to the blessings of the Lord, which he permits to crown the industry and efforts of those inhabitants, there would be a measure of the good things of life, for the benefit of the Saints, full, pressed down, and running over, even an hundred fold. The disadvantages here, like all new counties are self-evident, lack of mills and schools, together with the natural privations and inconveniencies, which the hand of industry and the refinement of society with the polish of science overcome. But all these impediments vanished, when it is recollected that the prophets have said concerning Zion, in the last days: how the glory of Lebanon is to come upon her; the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify his sanctuary, that he may make the place of his feet glorious, where for brass he will bring gold, and for iron he will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron; and where the feast of fat things will be given to the just, yea, when the splendour of the Lord is brought to one consideration, for the good of his people, the calculations of men and the vain glory of the world vanishes, and we exclaim, "God will shine—the perfection of beauty out of Zion!"

On the third day of August, the spot for the temple, a little west of Independence, was dedicated in presence of eight men, among whom were myself, Sidney Rigdon, Edward Partridge, W. W. Phelps, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and Joseph Coe. The 87th Psalm was read, and the scene was solemn and impressive. On the 4th I attended the first conference in the land of Zion. It was held at the house of brother Joshua Lewis, in Kaw township, in the presence of the Colesville branch of the church. The spirit of the Lord was there. On the 7th, I attended the funeral of sister Polly Knight, the wife of Joseph Knight, sen. This was the first death in the church in this land, and I can say, a worthy member sleeps in Jesus till the resurrection.—I also received the following

Revelation, given in Zion, August, 1831.

Behold, blessed, saith the Lord, are they who have come up unto this land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments, for them that live shall inherit the earth, and them that die shall rest from all their labours, and their works shall follow them, and they shall receive a crown in the mansions of my Father, which I have prepared for them; yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel, for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth; and it shall bring forth in its strength; and they shall also be crowned with blessings from above; yea, and with commandments not a few; and with revelations in their time, they that are faithful and diligent before me.

Wherefore, I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength: and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt

serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Thou shalt not steal. Neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do any thing like unto it. Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in all things. Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness: even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day: for verily this is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labours, and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High, nevertheless thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days, and at all times; but remember, that on this the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations, and thy sacraments, unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord.

And on this day thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart, that thy fasting may be perfect, or in other words that thy joy may be full. Verily this is fasting and prayer; or, in other words, rejoicing and prayer.

And inasmuch as ye do these things, with thanksgiving, with cheerful hearts and countenances; not with much laughter, for this is sin, but with a glad heart and a cheerful countenance; verily I say that inasmuch as ye do this the fulness of the earth is yours, the beasts of the fields, and the fowls of the air, and that which climbeth upon the trees, and walketh upon the earth; yea, and the herb, and the good things which cometh of the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses or for barns, or for orchards or gardens, or for vineyards; yea, all things which cometh of the earth, in the season thereof, is made for the benefit and use of man, both to please the eye and gladden the heart; yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body, and to enliven the soul.

And it pleaseth God that he has given all these things unto man: for unto this end were they made, to be used with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion: and in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments. Behold this is according to the law and the prophets: wherefore trouble me no more concerning this matter but learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come, I the Lord have spoken it, and the spirit beareth record. Amen.

On the 8th, as there had been some inquiry among the elders what they were to do, I received the following

Revelation given August, 1831.

Behold, thus saith the Lord unto the elders of his church who are to return speedily to the land from whence they came. Behold it pleaseth me that you have come up hither; but with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their mouths, but hide the talent which I have given unto them, because of the fear of man. Wo unto such, for mine anger is kindled against them.

And it shall come to pass, if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be taken away, even that which they have, for I the Lord rule in the heavens above, and among the armies of the earth; and in the day when I shall make up my jewels, all men shall know what it is that bespeaketh the power of God. But verily I will speak unto you concerning your journey unto the land from whence you came. Let there be a craft made, or bought, as seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me, and take your journey speedily, for the place which is called St. Louis. And from thence let my servants Sidney Rigdon and Joseph Smith, jun., and Oliver Cowdery, take their journey for Cincinnati: and in this place let them lift up their voice, and declare my word with loud voices, without wrath or doubting, lifting up holy hands upon them. For I am able to make you holy, and your sins are forgiven you.

And let the residue take their journey from St. Louis, two by two, and preach the word, not in haste, among the congregations of the wicked, until they return to the churches from whence they came. And all this for the good of the

churches, for this intent have I sent them. And let my servant, Edward Partridge, impart of the money which I have given him, a portion unto mine elders, who are commanded to return; and he that is able, let him return it by the way of the agent, and he that is not, of him it is not required. And now I speak of the residue who are to come unto this land. Behold they have been sent to preach my gospel among the congregations of the wicked: wherefore, I give unto them a commandment thus: Thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent that it may not be known.

And after thou hast come up unto the land of Zion, and hast proclaimed my word, thou shalt speedily return proclaiming my word among the congregations of the wicked. Not in haste, neither in wrath nor with strife, and shake off the dust of thy feet against those who receive thee not, not in their presence, lest thou provoke them, but in secret, and wash thy feet as a testimony against them in the day of judgment. Behold, this is sufficient for you, and the will of him who hath sent you. And by the mouth of my servant, Joseph Smith, jun., it shall be made known concerning Sidney Rigdon and Oliver Cowdery: the residue hereafter: even so. Amen.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN THE BRITISH ISLANDS,

Greeting,

BELOVED BRETHREN, whom I love of a truth, for the truth's sake that dwelleth in you, and my prayer to God is, that it may abide with you for ever. Amen.

It is with no ordinary feelings that I reflect upon the responsibility that is resting upon me, as I enter upon my duties as a servant of Jesus Christ, and a counsellor to his Saints, in endeavouring to fill so important a station as is required at my hands; yet, trusting in that God who has sustained his servants in every age of the world, from the death of righteous Abel to Joseph, and has enabled them to accomplish every work which he has required of them; therefore I feel moved upon by the spirit of God to again join my brethren in this land, for the purpose of assisting them in their labours in every good word and work, believing that I shall share in their fellowship and confidence, and be sustained by the prayer of faith, that when called upon I may be enabled to render a satisfactory account of my stewardship, both unto my brethren, and to that God unto whom I am accountable for all my actions.

Impressed with a realizing sense that you desire a true statement of facts concerning the present position, prospects, and intentions of the church in America, I will embody the outlines of the same in this epistle.

Many important events have transpired in America since I took the parting hand with the Saints in this land, in company with six of the quorum of the twelve, together with elders Hedlock and Burnham, and with them set sail in 1841 for our native country. Events, that have been calculated to bring both joy and sorrow to our hearts. Joy unspeakable in the fulness of that light, intelligence, and glory which have been made manifest in the revelation of Jesus Christ, through the mouth of his prophet, in the wisdom of God, for the salvation and exaltation of the sons of men; and sorrow in the loss of our beloved Prophet and Patriarch, who have sealed their testimony with their blood, under the sentence that the *laws of the land* could not reach them, but *powder and ball should*.

Beloved brethren, think not that any new or strange thing has happened in this nineteenth century because saints, apostles, patriarchs, or prophets are slain for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ, while standing under the shadow of the American eagle, with her wide-spread banners, bearing the motto of equal protection to all her citizens; the same has been characteristic of the times, and marked the history of the ancient patriarchs, prophets, and apostles of God, the Lamb of God himself, not excepted; that whenever they have been inspired by the great God, to lay the foundation of any dispensation or work, for the salvation of men, or benefit of the generation in which they lived, it has come in contact with the

notions, traditions, and superstitions of the inhabitants of the earth, who have been ready not only to drive them into the wilderness or caves of the earth, but to persecute them even unto death, however careful they may have been to keep the laws both of God and man. This was the case with Jesus Christ who held the keys of salvation, not only of the Jews but of the whole world, he was persecuted from the manger to the cross, all manner of evil was spoken against him falsely, and in his last hour, when no testimony could be brought against him, and Pilate was convinced of his innocence, and that he could find no fault in him, and as a testimony washed his hands in their sight, declaring himself to be innocent of his blood, yet the multitude cried out, "crucify him, crucify him, crucify him, his blood be upon us, and upon our children;" accordingly his blood has been upon that nation and their posterity, from generation to generation; it appeared to be the key that sealed their condemnation for the last eighteen hundred years, during which time they have had to suffer for shedding the blood of the Lord's anointed.

In like manner it may be said of the prophet of God in this dispensation; he has had to flee into the wilderness, to the mountains, and caves of the rocks from time to time, to evade the pursuit of his persecutors, that he might finish the work committed to his charge; suffering many trials and hardships by being stoned and mobbed, often in chains and imprisonments, also being dragged through upwards of forty vexatious law-suits, and yet never in one instance condemned by the laws of the land, when he had a legal tribunal; and, last of all, under the pledged protection of the honour of the Governor and State of Illinois, Joseph the prophet, and his brother Hyrum the patriarch, were basely murdered by somewhere near two hundred American citizens, painted like Indians, under the decision that the laws of the land could not reach them, but powder and ball should.

I acknowledge, my beloved brethren, that I blush for my native land, for the name of freeman. I blush for the name of christianity and civilization, for such deeds the wild savage of the woods would despise in his heart, and would commit suicide in reflection of being guilty of such crimes. Yet I have the consolation of believing, that the innocent blood of the Saints, which has dyed the American soil for the truth's sake, will cry in the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, until the abettors and perpetrators of such horrid tragedies will have to pay the price of the blood of those righteous men whom they have martyred.

Should any of the Saints have formed an opinion that the apostles, prophets, or saints of God in the last days would not seal their testimony with their blood, I wish to mark it as an error by citing testimony upon the subject. John the Revelator, while wrapped in the visions of the Almighty, saw events that were to transpire in the last days, before the second advent of the Messiah; and in the opening of the fifth seal, he "saw under the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and when they asked how long before the Lord would judge and avenge their blood, on those that dwelt on the earth, they were informed they must rest for a little season until their fellow-servants and brethren should be killed as they were." Rev. vi. 9, 10, 11. Again, John said, in pouring out the plagues upon the earth, xvi. 3, that "he poured out his phial upon the sea, and it became as the blood of a dead man, and every living soul died in the sea: and the third angel poured out his phial upon the rivers and fountains of waters, and they became blood; and the angel said the Lord was righteous in so doing, for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink, for they are worthy."

Some may say, it was in the days of Jesus Christ that this was fulfilled—but it was not so; for John lived after, and saw things that should come to pass in the future; and that in the last days the waters were to be turned into blood, because they had shed the blood of prophets and of saints, John also speaks of two other witnesses in Judea that were to be slain; and how many other of the servants of God may be called to seal their testimony with their blood before the coming of Christ is not for me to say.

The Book of Doctrine and Covenants conveys the idea that the prophet, Joseph Smith, might be called to lay down his life, see page 126, last of the first paragraph; also page 159, fourth paragraph, "Behold, I will *give* you eternal life, even if you

should be slain." Page 237, third paragraph, "I have decreed in my heart, saith the Lord, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant *even unto death*, that you may be found worthy." Hence, instead of the death of the prophet being contrary to the word of God, it is evidently in fulfilment of prophecy and the revelations of Jesus Christ.

The prophet Joseph was fully aware, for months before his death, that his work was about finished on the earth. I draw this conclusion from the testimony of his own mouth, in his addresses both public and private. On the 16th of April, 1844, while delivering an address at the Temple in Nauvoo, upon the death of elder Lorenzo Barnes, whose body lies interred at Idle, near to Bradford, Yorkshire, he remarked that when he died he wished to have an honourable burial with his father and the Saints in Nauvoo. He plainly declared that he wished his body to lie beside his father in Nauvoo; for he considered Nauvoo would be a burial place for the Saints.

Again, months before he made the above request, while delivering an interesting address before the Female Relief Society of Nauvoo, he said, "As he had this opportunity, he was going to instruct the society, and point out the way for them to conduct themselves, that they might act according to the will of God; that he did not know that he should have many opportunities of teaching them, as they were going to be left to themselves; they would not have him to instruct them; that the church would not have his instructions long, and the world would not be troubled with him a great while, nor have his teachings; he spoke of delivering the keys to others, and that, according to his prayers, God had appointed him elsewhere.

The prophet called the quorum of the twelve together several months before his death, and informed them that the Lord had commanded him to hasten their endowments; that he did not expect to remain himself to see the temple completed, but wished to confer the keys of the kingdom of God upon other men, that they might build up the church and kingdom according to the pattern given. And the prophet stood before the twelve from day to day, clothed with the spirit and power of God, and instructed them in the oracles of God, in the pattern of heavenly things, in the keys of the kingdom, the power of the priesthood, and in the knowledge of the last dispensation in the fulness of times.

And as his last work and charge to the quorum of the twelve, that noble spirit rose up in all the majesty, strength, and dignity of his calling, as a prophet, seer, and revelator, out of the loins of ancient Joseph, and exhorted and commanded the brethren of the twelve to rise up, and go forth in the name of Israel's God, and bear off the keys of the kingdom of God in righteousness and honour in all the world, walking in all holiness, godliness, faith, virtue, temperance, patience, and charity; doing honour to the cause of God in this last dispensation and fulness of times, and when their work was finished to follow his example by boldly meeting death, and sealing their testimony with their blood, for the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, if necessity required it, that they might be prepared for the reward which is beyond the veil.

Those who were present on those occasions cannot forget such principles, and teachings, as fell from the lips of that noble, but now martyred prophet of God. Though his body sleeps in the tomb, his testimony lives, not only in the hearts of men, but is on record and will remain in force, while his persecutors will reap a just reward for all their works. And I hereby bear my testimony unto all men unto whose hands these lines may fall, that I have been acquainted with Joseph and Hyrum Smith, the prophet and patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints—have attended their public and private counsels from time to time, during the last ten years of my life, and notwithstanding their enemies have caused the earth to be deluged, as it were, with lies, slanders, and fabrications, with the intent to injure their character and destroy their influence among men, yet I can testify of a truth, that I have never heard either of those men teach, counsel, or advocate, or practice any principle that was contrary to the word of God, virtue, or temperance, or unbecoming men standing in their high and holy calling; but on the contrary I have been astonished at the patience, forbearance, and long-suffering, philanthropy and charity manifested in the lives of those men; and more especially

in the beauty, order, knowledge, principles, intelligence and glory manifest in the teachings, counsels, and revelations of Jesus Christ, given through those servants of God, for the benefit of the children of men in this last dispensation.

Soon after the quorum of the twelve received their endowment, according to the counsel of the prophet, they left Nauvoo, (except two) on a mission to the Eastern States. They had not been long gone ere the persecutors of the Saints were exceedingly mad against them, and sought to find accusation against the prophet, that they might put him to death.

At length the Governor and Officers of the State of Illinois having pledged their word, faith, and honour to protect them from violence, the prophet and his brother Hyrum gave themselves up to answer to the charges of their enemies.

They took the parting hand with their aged mother, bid adieu to wife and children, left a circle of many thousands of friends in the lovely city of Nauvoo, who were ready to lay down their lives in their defence against injustice or mobs. And without either warrant or officer accompanied by two of the twelve, and a few other friends, they rode nearly twenty miles into the camp of their enemies, to the town of Carthage.

Before entering the town, the prophet exclaimed, "I go as a lamb to the slaughter, I am innocent of the crimes whereof I am accused, I die with a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man."

I need not enter upon the details of the horrid tragedy committed by the murder of our lamented brethren, as you have had all the particulars laid before you; suffice it to say that then fell two as noble men as ever dwelt in flesh in this generation; thus were broken the pledged faith and honour of the Governor and the State of Illinois; thus were the laws and institutions of America disgraced in the eyes of the nations of the earth; and the cup of her iniquity filled that she might be prepared for judgment.

When the report of these things reached the quorum of the twelve, most of whom were in the Eastern States, some fifteen hundred miles from the city of Nauvoo, we assembled together in the city of Boston, and made preparations for immediately returning home to Nauvoo. Any portion of a veil that remained over our eyes concerning any sayings of the prophet about his being taken away from us, &c., was now taken off, and we not only saw clearly, but felt deeply in our hearts, respecting many of his sayings while in our midst. We started together, and in about twelve days we again trod the soil of Nauvoo. But how great the change, now many thousands of the Saints were in mourning for their lost friends, who had as it were laid down their lives for them, and even the heavens over our heads seemed brooding with gloom over the spilt blood of the prophets; while we ourselves would have been glad to have had the opportunity of setting our houses in order, and have mourned for the martyred prophets for thirty days, as Israel did for Moses, and then have risen up, washed our faces, anointed our heads, and gone about our master's business, but we were even deprived of this privilege, for aspiring spirits, who are ever ready to rise up on such occasions, were already active, the most conspicuous of which was manifest in the actions of Sidney Rigdon; the history of which you have had already laid before you in the *Times and Seasons*, and the STAR; his course was such that of necessity we had to commence church business the day following our arrival in the city.

As many spirits have gone out into the world in the last days, one of them was plainly manifest in the prophetic editors of many of the public journals of the day, by prognosticating that as the prophet was dead, the work of the Latter-day Saints was ended, that they would disperse, and the cause fall away and die. They might as well have said in the case of the crucifixion of Christ, because he was dead, that his testimony would die, and his apostles desert the cause, and the work fall to the ground to rise no more for ever; but it was the reverse, his testimony just began to be in force, his apostles having the keys of the kingdom, walked up into their calling, and magnified the work, three thousand souls uniting with them in one day, while the work spread far and wide.

So will it be in this case, the testimony of the late martyred prophets will now be in force, the principles of light, knowledge, and glory that have flowed from

their lips, is too firmly rivetted in the hearts of thousands of the Saints to die, but on the contrary must live and bring forth fruit to the honour and glory of God.

The fire of eternal truth, and the power of God, have burned too long and deep in the flesh and bones of the Twelve Apostles of this dispensation, while sitting under the quickening voice and testimony of those prophets, to be quenched with anything but death, neither will it permit them to turn from their course to spend their time in the engagements of merchandise, farming, or fishing. A double portion of the spirit of God, and the power of the priesthood will rest upon the elders of Israel as they go forth into the vineyard, until tens of thousands will rejoice in the fulness of the Gospel of the Son of God.

We found this kind of spirit and feeling resting upon the Saints on our return to Nauvoo, truly they were called to mourn, but had by no means lost their faith; but otherwise, they seemed united together, if possible with a stronger tie, and as the heart of one man, were ready to carry out every measure of the work of God, according to the pattern and foundation laid by the prophet who had sealed the work with his life. On the second day after our arrival, Aug. 8th, 1844, we met in a special conference, all the quorums, authorities, and members of the Church, that could assemble in Nauvoo. They were addressed by elder Brigham Young, the president of the quorum of the twelve. It was evident to the Saints that the mantle of Joseph had fallen upon him, the road that he pointed out could be seen so plainly, that none need err therein; the spirit of wisdom and counsel attended all his teachings, he struck upon a chord, with which all hearts beat in unison.

He was followed by a number of the twelve and others, who spoke to the point in an edifying manner, and at the close of the conference, a number of resolutions were formed, and votes taken, among which was the following: "Do the Saints want the twelve to stand as the head, as the First Presidency of the Church, and at the head of this kingdom in all the world, and next to Joseph walk up into their calling, hold the keys of this kingdom, and preside over all the affairs of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints in all the world?" All that are in favour of this in all the congregation of the Saints make it manifest by holding up the right hand. At once there was a sea of hands, a universal vote; a contrary vote was called and not a hand was raised in a congregation of about fifteen thousand Saints. Sidney Rigdon himself, who was present, did not vote against it, but I think in favour of it. Confidence and order were firmly established from that hour. The two oldest bishops were appointed by the twelve as trustees in trust for the Temple.

The walls of the Temple arose much faster than ever before, the labourers upon that house manifested a determination not to leave it until it was finished, even if they obtained nothing but their daily bread for their reward. The quorum of the twelve immediately entered upon their duties by organizing all the quorums of the Church according to the order of God, and carrying out all the views and principles of the prophet and patriarch, according to the pattern given them in laying the foundation of this great and mighty work. They have organized the Churches in North America into districts and conferences similar to the organization which they formed with the Saints in Great Britain. They have organized twelve quorums of the Seventies, seven Presidents to each quorum, who will be prepared after the endowment to go forth unto all nations, bearing glad tidings unto the children of men.

When the quorum of the twelve met in council, it seemed wisdom in God, that some one of them should visit the churches in Britain; the lot fell upon me, as you will see from the recommendation of president Brigham Young, to the churches in Europe. And according to appointment, after passing with my family through all the fatigues and dangers of a journey and voyage of six thousand miles, I am again in your midst; and I am happy to be able to inform you that the progress of the work of the Lord, and the prosperity of the Saints, has never been in as prosperous a condition as at the present time, in the United States generally. All letters and papers up to the latest date from Nauvoo, confirm this statement; peace, union, order and industry prevail. Great exertions are made by the Saints

to establish manufactures in various branches, that all may be employed, and have their wants supplied. The temple is prospering rapidly, all the capitals were up when we last heard from Nauvoo.

Perhaps some may think that I ought to embody in this address a minute account of the thousand stories and rumours that have been put in circulation by our enemies against the Prophet, Patriarch, the Twelve, and the Saints at large; in answer, I say, that if it was the first time that the followers of God were spoken evil of, and every wicked slander that could be devised put forth against them, I should consider it to be a new thing under the sun: I would spend more time in writing about it; but as every man (according to the scriptures) that will follow Christ, will be hated by the world, and have all manner of evil spoken against him, and as the Saints may look for it, I will give it a passing notice, by saying—that John C. Bennett, and many other enemies and apostates have sought and studied out, and counselled together in order to ferm those stories and falsehoods that would have a tendency to injure the Saints, and prejudice the minds of the community against them, without any regard to truth; and in this way thousands of reports and stories have been set afloat, many of them so ridiculous and foreign from reason or common sense, that none could believe them, and one would think that the devil himself would be ashamed of such agents.

As to the career of Mr. Sidney Rigdon—I would say, that his late views, opinions, and course, have been so foreign and diverse from that of the late prophet, and the faith of the Saints, or any idea that ever entered their minds in connexion with the kingdom of God, or even his own until of late, that he has had but very little influence, except with a few uneasy spirits who were aspiring after something else than doing the will of God; and if we have been rightly informed, even that influence is dying away; and I have no doubt, but that when Mr. Rigdon comes to reflect upon the course he has taken, he will deeply regret having entered upon those measures which will end like airy castles, in disappointment.

But, beloved brethren, you may rest assured that the quorum of the twelve are determined to carry out the order and principles of the church, according to the law of God, and of righteousness; they will take a decided stand against every principle or practice manifest in the church, contrary to the law of God, of reason, revelation, virtue or holiness. They are men who have taken upon them the name of Christ with full purpose of heart, they have laboured diligently and faithfully all the day long from the beginning, to establish the foundation of the fulness of the gospel, and plant the principles of eternal truth among the nations. Many of them have been in your midst, their labours and their diligence you have witnessed; they have spared no pains or sacrifice in planting the work throughout this realm; and they still are willing to labour and spend their lives in the cause, desiring greatly that the Temple may be finished, that the Saints may receive their endowments, and save themselves and their friends; and that the elders of Israel may go forth clothed with the power of God, the fulness of the priesthood, the keys of the kingdom of God; that they may be instrumental in his hands of saving the honest in heart and meek of the earth of this generation; that they may be prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, to stand before the Son of Man.

The Twelve are not alone in their feelings in this important work, the High Priests, Seventies, Elders and Saints, as a body throughout America, are inspired by the same spirit, and are ready as one man to sustain the quorum of the twelve by their faith, prayer, confidence and works, and carry out those glorious principles and measures, the foundation of which was laid by the martyred prophets of God.

While union is strength, knowledge is power, and while the work is in the hands of such men, whose motive is to build up the kingdom of God, promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity, and save the souls of men, we have no fears but that the work will prosper, light and truth prevail, the name of God be glorified, Zion established, and the Saints be prepared for exaltation beyond the veil.

Having thus far dwelt upon the cause in America, I will now turn my attention to the Officers and Saints in this land. It has been a source of much consolation to me since my arrival, to hear the report of the union, faith, and determination of the

Saints in general, in the various conferences, scattered abroad through the British Islands. I rejoice, beloved brethren, to learn that the same spirit is animating your bosoms, as is manifest amongst the Saints in Nauvoo, viz: that of carrying out the measures of the prophet, sustaining the authorities of the Church, uniting to build the temple, and maintaining your faith, notwithstanding that the prophet be slain. I am fully persuaded that those who were appointed as your Presidency in this land, viz: elders Hedlock and Ward, have had much of the spirit of wisdom, prudence, and counsel manifest in all their measures in your midst; they have had grace and strength according to their day, and have been faithful over those things committed to their charge. I am also happy to learn that the work is in a prosperous condition in London, under the wise and faithful teachings of elder Davies; also of its prosperity in Scotland, under the superintendance of elder John Cairns, who is now gone to America. I also find elders Stratton, Sheets, Meynell, and a number of other elders well employed. Elders Clark, Jones, Holmes, and Hardy, who accompanied me from America, are now in the field. Elder Jones has gone to Wales to both preach and print in the Welsh language, and with the grace of God and united exertion of all the labouring elders throughout the land, I expect ere long we shall reap a rich harvest of souls.

It is my intention to visit the various conferences throughout the kingdom as soon as circumstances will permit.

Beloved brethren, there are several subjects which weigh upon my mind, and I beg your attention while I present them before you.

The first that presents itself is, the Temple of God, which he has commanded his Saints in all the world to build unto his holy name. I believe all that is necessary for the Saints in Europe, is to understand this subject in its true light, in order to bring forth their tithes and offerings into the storehouse of God, in such a manner that he will open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room enough to contain it. I am not zealous of urging this matter upon our friends in this country, because I have any fears that the Temple of God cannot be built; no, for I verily believe that if there should not a farthing be sent from this land or even from the United States, that the Saints in Nauvoo would never cease their work, diligence, and labours, until they saw the finishing stroke adorn that Temple; but, why, O ye Saints of God in Europe, should we stand still, withhold our tithings and offerings, and see our brethren in Nauvoo build that Temple, and then like Jacob of old secure alone unto themselves the promised blessing! may God forbid, rather let all the Saints throughout the world send up their tithings, with their names to be recorded in the Book of the Law of the Lord, by so doing they will not only keep the commandments of the Lord, but will own their share in the house, and have a right to all the promised blessings, ordinances, oracles, and endowments which will not only benefit them, but their posterity to the latest generation.

I trust therefore that all the presiding elders will use their exertions to have all the churches continue their tithings, send the name of each individual with the money to us in Liverpool, that we may record the same in a book, and keep a copy with us, and also send a copy of the same with the money to Nauvoo, that it may be recorded in the book of the Law of the Lord.

I wish the Female Society, in all the branches, to *continue* their subscriptions for the temple until it is finished; let their money and names be brought together the same as all other tithings and offerings, that, when the temple is finished, the whole amount they have paid may stand opposite their names in the Book of the Law of the Lord, that it may be known who are the owners of the house.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that collections of every description for the temple, in this land, whether from churches, individuals, or the Female Society, should be brought with their names to us here in Liverpool, that it may go through the proper channel, that our records may show that all things are done according to the order of God.

The circulating and sustaining the works published by the Latter-day Saints, is also a subject I deem of importance. I hope the officers and members will use their exertions in circulating THE STAR, and all other works, as widely as possi-

ble. It is wisdom for all the saints that can, to carefully secure each number of THE STAR, and at the end of the volume, get them bound. I here wish to remark, that we have on hand at 36, Chapel-street, Liverpool, several hundred copies of the 4th and 5th volumes of the *Times and Seasons*, sent here by elder John Taylor. These volumes contain many precious and important documents—the history of the persecutions, the trials and acquitals of the prophet before the court of Illinois; many letters and teachings of the prophet; also, a full account of the late murder of our brethren. In them will be found also, much of history connected with the rise and progress of the church, it is not expected that they will ever be reprinted, and when these copies are disposed of they cannot be obtained on any consideration. I hope the Saints, as far as they can, will secure a copy of this work, that they may leave with their posterity an account of the rise and progress of the church which has been attended with so many scenes of vast interest.

We shall probably publish the "Book of Doctrine and Covenants" in England, as soon as circumstances will permit.

Emigration will continue to Nauvoo, or other parts of America, according to the circumstances and desires of the Saints; we shall endeavour to establish an agency in New Orleans, and also in New York, and no pains will be spared to make the Saints as comfortable as possible that wish to emigrate.

That all may understand alike, and act in unison in church matters, among all the conferences throughout this country, I would say, that whenever any member of the church is to be tried for any transgression or difficulty, after they have been dealt with according to the laws of the church, let the accuser present his charge in writing, in a tangible manner, before the council of the officers of the branch to which the accused belongs. The presiding elder of the branch will sit as President, and decide the case according to the testimony given, in justice and righteousness before the Lord. The decision should afterwards be presented before the members of that branch, and they be called upon to sanction the decision. Should there be any dissatisfaction with the decision given, an appeal can be made to the quarterly conference, by presenting an account of the testimony and decision accompanying the appeal. The presiding elder of the quarterly conference will preside, and decide upon the case according to the testimony given.

If an elder, presiding over any branch of the church should transgress, charges can be brought against him before the quarterly conference, and he can there be tried. If either party be dissatisfied there can be an appeal made to the general or yearly conference, by presenting the testimony, and the decision given, and the President of all the conferences in the realm will sit in judgment on the case, and decide according to testimony, which will be an end of controversy concerning the matter. If a presiding elder over a quarterly conference shall transgress, charges can be preferred against him before the general conference, and he can be tried. If the President over the whole church in any realm shall transgress, he can be tried before the general authorities of the church assembled in Nauvoo, or wherever they may be assembled; so that there is no member exempt in all the kingdom of God: all these decisions must be made in all lowliness of heart, in righteousness and truth before God.

I would earnestly exhort all the elders or other officers of the church that stand up to teach the people, not to forget the first principles of the gospel; and to seek by faith, prayer and humility, to obtain wisdom, and the spirit of God to dictate in all your labours. Wisdom is one of the greatest gifts of God, and the voice of wisdom will not tell us to spend our time in warring against the sects of the day, opposing the opinions of men, ridiculing the religions that surround us, thereby cutting off the ears of the hearer; barring the hearts of men against light and truth; the opinions and religions of other men are as dear unto them as ours are unto us. Oh, ye elders of Israel! let *Salvation* be your text, in meekness and humility, with the power of eternal truth, wisdom, light and knowledge that are hid in the first principles of the gospel of the Son of God, you can be instrumental in saving the souls of men, and they will rejoice with yourselves that they have ever beheld the light thereof; we should never get above the gospel, or leave it to preach something that is foreign to our calling; or to make strife about words to no pro-

fit: every tree is known by its fruit; if we are faithful before the Lord, pursue a wise and prudent course, good fruit will be sure to follow our labours.

And lastly, I wish most strongly to urge upon all officers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints throughout this realm, *that they strictly observe and abide by the* LAWS OF THE LAND, So long as the government protects our lives, persons, and property—guarantees unto us the rights of conscience in common with all its subjects, it is perfectly right that we should be submissive to the laws of the same; and for us to honour and respect the Queen of this realm, with all the officers of government in their respective stations, is no more than following the example of our Lord and Master, who was ready to render unto Ceasar the things that were Ceasar's, and unto God the things that were God's; *and any course of conduct contrary to this cannot be sustained by the authorities of this church.*

I wish the Saints generally to understand that I have made choice of elders Hedlock and Ward as my counsellors, in presiding over and conducting the affairs of the kingdom of God in this portion of the vineyard, and hope, in conjunction with them, to be able to visit most of the conferences as early as possible.

I would beg to remark to the presidents of conferences that, if they would send us an intimation about the time of holding quarterly conferences, previously to their definitely fixing them, we should be much better enabled, one or more, to attend them, as by a short postponement occasionally, our time could be better divided.

There are a number of other subjects upon which I shall express my views through the STAR, as I may communicate with you from time to time through that medium; but having already lengthened this address beyond what I intended at the commencement, I must close.

By way of conclusion I would exhort all the Saints, that we unitedly observe the sayings of our Lord as recorded in the 12th, 13th, and 14th, verses of the xv. chap. of John—if we love one another as Christ has loved us, we can easily settle all difficulties that may arise in our midst, forgive one another, and be filled with mercy, and light, love, joy, union, peace, and fellowship will be the stability of our times, which will be much better in the sight of God, angels, and men, than long petty-fogging over the faults of our brethren. I especially desire that all the officers of the church may rightly consider their calling, and make full proof of their ministry, bear off the priesthood with dignity and honour, be wise shepherds that will feed the flock, prove a blessing to thousands of the human family, so that their garments may be clear of the blood of all men, that they may prove true and faithful, and be approved of in the sight of heaven, be acknowledged the sons of God, and be prepared for all those blessings that await the friends of God both in time and in eternity; which is the sincere prayer, before God, of your servant and fellow-labourer in the new and everlasting covenant,

WILFORD WOODRUFF.

We have rejoiced much in the arrival of elder Woodruff, and in the teaching, which his counsel affords; and we take the present opportunity of expressing our entire approbation of the foregoing address, and the principles which it contains; we also feel much satisfaction in finding elder Woodruff advocating those measures and principles which it has ever been our object to teach and enforce; and we feel, to pledge ourselves in the strength of the Lord, to uphold our beloved brother to the best of our ability, trusting that unitedly we shall have the faith and prayers of the Saints.

REUBEN HEDLOCK.
THOMAS WARD.

Editorial.

Our STAR is principally filled this month with the Address of Elder Woodruff, the perusal of which, we feel assured, will give general satisfaction to all Saints, and we hope that every one will be ready to hearken unto the counsel it contains, that the blessing of the Lord may be upon them, and that the work of the Lord may roll onwards with accelerated speed, and we pray that the honest in heart may be upheld in connexion with the principles of eternal truth, to enjoy the triumphs of its glorious consummation. The following recommendatiou has been received from President Brigham Young, which we have much pleasure in laying before our readers.

TO ALL THE ELDERS AND SAINTS IN EUROPE.

GREETING:

We send our beloved brother, Wilford Woodruff, to England, to take charge of all the business transactions pertaining to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, both spiritual and temporal, we wish you to give diligent heed to his counsel in all things; and as we have not the opportunity of informing you of what has transpired this season by letter, our beloved brother will make known unto you all things.

We wish the brethren to be faithful and diligent in keeping all of the commandments of God, and in hearkening to the counsel of those who are sent to counsel them. Let no man, or set of men, think that they have power, or authority, or the keys of the kingdom, above the apostle, Wilford Woodruff, whom we send unto you, to instruct you in the things pertaining to life and salvation; though our prophet be slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, yet the keys of the kingdom remain in the church, and the heavens are not closed, neither is the mouth of the Almighty sealed up that he cannot speak. The God of Israel will communicate to his disciples from time to time all things necessary for the building up of his kingdom upon the earth until Israel is gathered, yea, even all the blood of Abraham scattered over all the earth, Zion established, Jerusalem rebuilt, and the whole earth be filled with the glory and knowledge of God.

We wish all the saints in England to continue their gathering as usual to the land of America, and they may have the privilege of appointing a committee, to visit the land of America, to prepare a location for the settlement of the brethren from Europe, according to their desire, under the direction and counsel of elder Wilford Woodruff.

And, further, we would say unto all the Saints in all the world, that may be visited by Elder Woodruff that, inasmuch as they will hearken unto his counsel, they shall be blessed, inasmuch as they will render him any assistance in his mission, they will be doing the will of God, and shall not lose their reward; and we desire that all Saints may use their efforts to sustain him in this important mission which he is called to fulfil by their faith, prayer, and brotherly love, according to the grace of God, established in these last days. Therefore, dear brethren, we would say, in conclusion, be humble and faithful, and hearken diligently unto the counsel of our beloved brother in the Lord, elder Wilford Woodruff, and the blessing of God will attend you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WILLIARD RICHARDS, Clerk.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, President of the Twelve.